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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. An electronic system, comprising:

critical circuitry;

non-critical circuitry having a first section and a second section; and a power sub-system having a first power assembly, a second power assembly, and a set of connections which is configured to connect the first and second power assemblies to the critical circuitry and the non-critical circuitry such that, when the first and second power assemblies operate to power the critical and non-critical circuitry through the set of connections, (i) a failure of only the second power assembly results in the first power assembly continuing to power the critical circuitry and the first section of the non-critical circuitry, and (ii) a failure of only the first power assembly results in the second power assembly continuing to power the critical circuitry and the second section of the non-critical circuitry.

2. The electronic system of claim 1 wherein the first section of the non-critical circuitry includes a first set of storage devices, wherein the second section of the non-critical circuitry includes a second set of storage devices, wherein the electronic system operates as a data storage system that stores data into and retrieves data from the first and second sets of storage devices on behalf of a host, and wherein the critical circuitry includes cache memory that temporarily buffers data exchanged between the host and the first and second sets of storage devices.

- 3. The electronic system of claim 2 wherein the second set of storage devices is configured to mirror data on the first set of storage devices.
- 4. The electronic system of claim 2 wherein the first section of the non-critical circuitry further includes:

a first front-end interface that is configured to operate as an interface between the host and the cache memory, and

a first back-end interface that is configured to operate as an interface between the cache memory and the first set of storage devices; and

wherein the second section of the non-critical circuitry further includes:

a second front-end interface that is configured to operate as an interface between the host and the cache memory, and

a second back-end interface that is configured to operate as an interface between the cache memory and the second set of storage devices.

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5. The electronic system of claim 4 wherein the set of connections of the power sub-system includes:

a first interconnect that electrically connects to the first set of storage devices;

a second interconnect that electrically connects to the second set of storage devices;

a third interconnect that electrically connects to the cache memory, the first front-end and back-end interfaces, and the second front-end and back-end interfaces;

a first bus bar assembly that electrically connects the first power assembly to the first and third interconnects; and

a second bus bar assembly that electrically connects the second power assembly to the second and third interconnects.

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6. The electronic system of claim 5 wherein the third interconnect includes:

a backplane having columns of connectors, each column of connectors electrically connecting to one of the first front-end interface, the first back-end interface, the second front-end interface, the second back-end interface and the cache memory; wherein the first bus bar assembly includes:

a first bus bar that electrically connects the first power assembly to the columns of connectors that electrically connect to the first front-end interface, the first back-end interface and the cache memory without electrically connecting the first power assembly to the columns of connectors that electrically connect to the second front-end interface and the second back-end interface; and

wherein the second bus bar assembly includes:

a second bus bar that electrically connects the second power assembly to the columns of connectors that electrically connect to the second front-end interface, the second back-end interface and the cache memory without electrically connecting to the columns of connectors that electrically connect to the first front-end interface and the first back-end interface.

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- The electronic system of claim 1 wherein X and Y are integers greater than 0; wherein the first power assembly includes multiple first power supplies that perform a normal operating procedure to provide power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry when up to X first power supplies fail, and an error handling procedure to discontinue providing power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry when more than X first power supplies fail; and wherein the second power assembly includes multiple second power supplies that perform a normal operating procedure to provide power to the critical circuitry and to the second section of the non-critical circuitry when up to Y second power supplies fail, and an error handling procedure to discontinue providing power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry when more than Y second power supplies fail.
- 8. The electronic system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a switch which is interconnected between the first and second power assemblies to voltage balance outputs of the first and second power assemblies.

	9.	The electronic system of claim 1 wherein the first power assembly of the power			
		sub-system includes:			
		a first set of main power line connectors to connect to a			
		first main power feed, and			
5		a first set of auxiliary power line connectors to connect to a			
		first auxiliary power feed; and			
		wherein the second power assembly of the power sub-system includes:			
		a second set of main power line connectors to connect to a			
		second main power feed, and			
10		a second set of auxiliary power line connectors to connect			
		to a second auxiliary power feed.			
	10.	The electronic system of claim 1 wherein the first section of the non-critical			
		circuitry further includes:			
15		a first fan assembly that removes heat from the first section			
		of the non-critical circuitry, and			
		a second fan assembly that removes heat from the second			
		section of the non-critical circuitry; and			
		wherein the second section of the non-critical circuitry further includes:			
20		a third fan assembly that removes heat from the first section			
		of the non-critical circuitry, and			
		a fourth fan assembly that removes heat from the second			
		section of the non-critical circuitry.			

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11. The electronic system of claim 1 wherein the first section of the non-critical circuitry further includes:

a first service processor that provides user access and control to the electronic system; and

wherein the second section of the non-critical circuitry further includes:

a second service processor that provides user access and control to the electronic system.

12. A power system for providing power to electronics including critical circuitry and non-critical circuitry, the power system comprising:

a first power assembly;

a second power assembly; and

a set of connections which is configured to connect the first and second power assemblies to the critical circuitry and the non-critical circuitry such that, when the first and second power assemblies operate to power the critical and non-critical circuitry through the set of connections, (i) a failure of only the second power assembly results in the first power assembly continuing to power the critical circuitry and the first section of the non-critical circuitry, and (ii) a failure of only the first power assembly results in the second power assembly continuing to power the critical circuitry and the second section of the non-critical circuitry.

13. The power system of claim 12 wherein the first section of the non-critical circuitry includes a first set of storage devices, wherein the second section of the non-critical circuitry includes a second set of storage devices, wherein the critical circuitry includes cache memory to temporarily buffer data exchanged between a host and the first and second sets of storage devices, and wherein the set of connections includes:

a first interconnect that is configured to electrically connect to the first set of storage devices;

a second interconnect that is configured to electrically connect to the second set of storage devices;

a third interconnect that is configured to electrically connect to the cache memory;

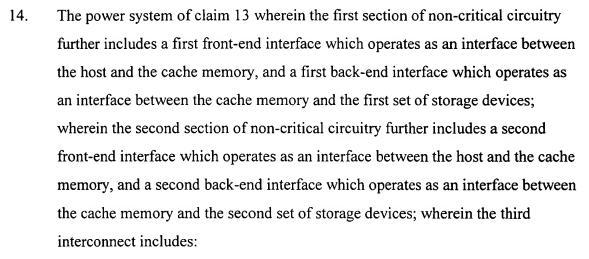
a first bus bar assembly that electrically connects the first power assembly to the first and third interconnects; and

a second bus bar assembly that electrically connects the second power assembly to the second and third interconnects.

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a backplane having columns of connectors, each column of connectors being configured to electrically connect to one of the first front-end interface, the first back-end interface, the second front-end interface, the second back-end interface and the cache memory;

wherein the first bus bar assembly includes:

a first bus bar that electrically connects the first power assembly to the columns of connectors that are configured to electrically connect to the first front-end interface, the first back-end interface and the cache memory without electrically connecting the first power assembly to the columns of connectors that are configured to electrically connect to the second front-end interface and the second back-end interface; and

wherein the second bus bar assembly includes:

a second bus bar that electrically connects the second power assembly to the columns of connectors that are configured to electrically connect to the second front-end interface, the second back-end interface and the cache memory without electrically connecting to the columns of connectors that are configured to

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electrically connect to the first front-end interface and the first back-end interface.

15. The power system of claim 12 wherein X and Y are integers greater than 0; wherein the first power assembly includes multiple first power supplies that perform a normal operating procedure to provide power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry when up to X first power supplies fail, and an error handling procedure to discontinue providing power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry when more than X first power supplies fail; and wherein the second power assembly includes multiple second power supplies that perform a normal operating procedure to provide power to the critical circuitry and to the second section of the non-critical circuitry when up to Y second power supplies fail, and an error handling procedure to discontinue providing power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry when more than Y second power supplies fail.

16. The power system of claim 12, further comprising:

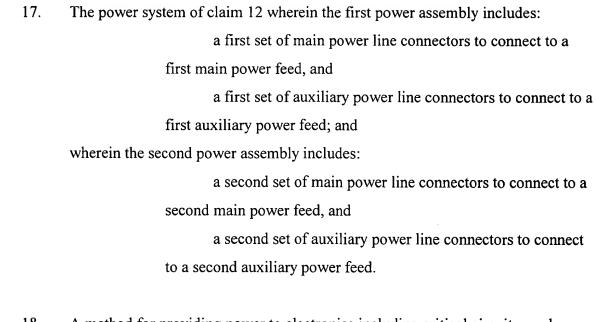
a switch which is interconnected between the first and second power assemblies to voltage balance outputs of the first and second power assemblies.

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18. A method for providing power to electronics including critical circuitry and non-critical circuitry, the method comprising the steps of:

operating a first power assembly to power the critical circuitry and a first section of the non-critical circuitry;

operating a second power assembly to power the critical circuitry and a second section of the non-critical circuitry;

in response to a failure of the second power assembly, continuing to power the critical circuitry and the first section of the non-critical circuitry using the first power assembly; and

in response to a failure of the first power assembly, continuing to power the critical circuitry and the second section of the non-critical circuitry using the second power assembly.

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19.	The method of claim 18 wherein X and Y are integers greater than 0; wherein the			
	first power assembly includes multiple first power supplies; wherein the step of			
	operating the first power assembly includes the step of:			
	performing a first normal operating procedure to			
	provide power to the critical circuitry and to the first			
	section of the non-critical circuitry when up to X first			

wherein the step of operating the second power assembly includes the step of:

power supplies fail;

performing a second normal operating procedure to provide power to the critical circuitry and to the second section of the non-critical circuitry when up to Y second power supplies fail;

wherein the step of continuing to power the critical circuitry and the first section of the non-critical circuitry using the first power assembly in response to a failure of the second power assembly includes the step of:

> performing a first error handling procedure to discontinue providing power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry using the first power assembly when more than X first power supplies fail; and

wherein the step of continuing to power the critical circuitry and the second section of the non-critical circuitry using the second power assembly in response to a failure of the first power assembly includes the step of:

> performing a second error handling procedure to discontinue providing power to the critical circuitry and to the first section of the non-critical circuitry using the second power assembly when more than Y second power supplies fail.

- 20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

 interconnecting the first and second power assemblies through a switch to voltage balance outputs of the first and second power assemblies.
- The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

 connecting a first set of main power line connectors of the first power assembly to a first main power feed;

connecting a first set of auxiliary power line connectors of the first power assembly to a first auxiliary power feed;

connecting a second set of main power line connectors of the second power assembly to a second main power feed; and

connecting a second set of auxiliary power line connectors of the second power assembly to a second auxiliary power feed.

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22. An electronic system, comprising:

critical circuitry;

non-critical circuitry having a first section and a second section; and a power sub-system having:

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- (a) a first power assembly,
- (b) a second power assembly, and
- assemblies to the critical circuitry and the
 non-critical circuitry such that, when the first and
 second power assemblies operate to power the
 critical and non-critical circuitry through the set of
 connections, (i) a failure of only the second power
 assembly results in the first power assembly
 continuing to power the critical circuitry and the
 first section of the non-critical circuitry, and (ii) a
 failure of only the first power assembly results in
 the second power assembly continuing to power the
 critical circuitry and the second section of the noncritical circuitry.

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